

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6579
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4. LINE 3. OMIT LAST
WORD "NOT")

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS CASE OF WASHINGTON DE VARGAS SACCONE

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1660 (NOTAL)

1. POLITICAL DETAINEE WASHINGTON DE VARGAS SACCONE RESURFACED
LAST WEEK FOLLOWING HIS HOSPITALIZATION AND SUBSEQUENT DIS-
APPEARANCE WHILE IN CUSTODY OF GOU SECURITY FORCES
(REFTEL). REPORTS FROM HIS FAMILY, WHO WERE PERMITTED TO
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VISIT HIM AT LIBERTAD PRISON, INDICATE THAT HE IS IN MORE OR
LESS SATISFACTORY CONDITION, ALTHOUGH HIS FACE SHOWED EVIDENCE
OF BEATING AND A TOOTH WAS MISSING.

2. DE VARGAS WAS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE ON 21 MAY 1978 AT THE
COMPLETION OF HIS SIX-YEAR SENTANCE FOR FORMING AN ILLEGAL
GROUP, OFFENSES AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION, AND ACTS PREPARA-

TORY (TO A CRIME). HOWEVER, GOU AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY ASSERT THAT, BECAUSE HE WAS RELEASED ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS BEGINNING ON 14 DECEMBER 1973, HE STILL HAS FOUR YEARS LEFT TO SERVE OF A SIX-YEAR SENTANCE. THUS HE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE UNTIL MAY 1982. NO FURTHER OFFICIAL MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF GOU SUSPICIONS THAT DE VARGAS PARTICIPATED IN THE MURDER OF TWO HOSPITAL GUARDS IN 1970 OR 1971.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AT LEAST LAST OCTOBER THE GOU HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD TO THE STORY OF DE VARGAS'S RELEASE ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY. HOWEVER, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT FOLLOWING HIS ARREST IN MAY 1972 HE HAS NEVER BEEN FREED FOR EVEN A SHORT TIME, MUCH LESS FOUR YEARS. STORY IS AN APPARENT RUSE TO JUSTIFY HIS FURTHER DETENTION, MADE NECESSARY BY GOU INABILITY TO PROVE DE VARGAS'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOSPITAL GUARDS' MURDER, OR TO EXTRACT A CONFESSION FROM HIM.

4. IN ADDITION TO U.S. CONCERN, CASE IS OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE BRITISH AND THE AUSTRIANS, WITH VIRTUALLY ALL EUROPEAN EMBASSIES HERE ACQUAINTED WITH IT TO SOME DEGREE. IT IS THEREFORE, LIKELY THAT THE CASE WILL ATTRACT SAME LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND PROTEST WHICH THE GOU INSPIRED THROUGH THEIR HANDLING OF THE RICARDO VILARO SANGUINETTI CASE (MONTEVIDEO 1504).

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5. EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED BY INFO POSTS OF ANY LOCAL RESPONSE TO DE VARGAS CASE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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